

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: VGRAY:AE
APPROVED BY EUR: RDVINE
EUR/CE: WWOESSNER
CU/WE:WHALL
NSC: GTREVERTON
S/S: LFLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT

REF: BERLIN 6708

1. DURING AUGST 30 DISCUSSION WITH GRAY, EUR/CE, NATIONAL GALLERYDIRECTOR CARTER BROWN CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO OPEN GALLERY'S NEW WING JUNE 1 IN CEREMONY DISTINCT FROM OPENING OF DRESDEN EXHIBIT SAME DAY. THERE WILL BE THREE SEPARATE PRE-OPENING DINNERS -- ONE FOR GALLERY, AND ONE EACH FOR DRESDEN EXHIBIT AND LESSER EXHIBIT. HOST AT LAST TWO WILL PROBABLY BE MELLON OR CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER, WHO IS ALSO GALLERY'S BOARD CHAIRMAN. BROWN VOLUNTEERED THAT HE, TOO, HAS BEEN GETTING FEELERS FOR HIGH LEVEL GDR ATTENDANCE NOT ONLY IN WASHINGTON BUT ALSO AT NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 215920

YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO OPENINGS; HE MENTIONED SINDERMANN AND CULTURE MINISTER HOFFMAN, SUGGESTED THAT CHIEFJUSTICE MIGHT SERVE AS HOST AND ASKED WHAT USG ATTITUDE WOULD BE TO INVITING GDR VIP'S. GRAY SAID THAT GDR WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SEEK TO POLITICIZE HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AND THAT IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT USG ATTITUDE TO SUCH A VISIT NINE MONTHS IN THE FUTURE. WHILE RELATIONS WERE

REASONABLY GOOD AT THE MOMENT WITH A NEW AMBASSADOR ON THE

SCENE, MANY VARIABLES (E.G., BERLIN, CSCE AND A CONSULAR CONVENTION) REMAINED UNCERTAIN. BROWN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND SAID GALLERY WANTED TO HEW TO USG POLICY BUT NOTED THAT IT ALSO HAD LONG LEAD-TIMES TO CONSIDER.

2. EXHIBIT THEME IS "HISTORY OF COLLECTING" AND, EXCEPT FOR ONE VISIONARY 1936 WORK SHOWING BOMBING OF DRESDEN (IN SEPARATE SECTION ON SCENES OF CITY), THE SHOW WILL BE COMPLETELY DEVOID OF POLITICS. IT WILL BE HOUSED IN MAIN EXHIBIT AREA JUST OFF MAIN ENTRANCE AND WILL BE PREVIEWED ON HOUR-LONG PUBLIC TELEVISION PREVIEW. T.V. CREW, WHICH WILL SHOOT SCENES OF WORKS IN DRESDEN, MAY ACCOMPANY DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND GALLERY TEAM THAT WILL ARRIVE IN BERLIN SEPTEMBER 19 FOR DISCUSSIONS OF REMAINING ISSUES SUCH AS CANALETTO, INSURANCE, COSTS FOR VIP TRAVEL, ETC. BROWN WILL ARRIVE IN MID-OCTOBER.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IS, WE UNDERSTAND, EXTREMELY TENTATIVE. WHILE GALLERY-OPENING CEREMONY NEED NOT REFER TO EXHIBITS, OPENING REMARKS AND WALK THROUGH WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT EXHIBIT AND/OR GDR. OBVERSELY, HOWEVER, MAGNITUDE OF EXHIBIT MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO IGNORE EXHIBIT AND GDR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 215920

4. ACTION: EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON PARAS. 1 AND 2 IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GDR OFFICIALS BUT SHOULD AVOID SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY PRESIDENT AND/OR CHIEF JUSTICE. NOR SHOULD ANY COMMITMENTS BE MADE ABOUT POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL GDR ATTENDANCE. VANCE

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